

# STANFORD

The image features two Stanford University softball players in action against a dark red background. On the left, Maddy Coon is captured mid-swing, wearing a white uniform with maroon accents and a dark helmet with a red 'S'. She is holding a green bat with 'TPS' written on it. On the right, Missy Penna is shown in a ready stance, wearing a white uniform with maroon accents and a maroon cap. She is holding a yellow softball in her right hand and a softball glove in her left. The background includes a large, faint Stanford 'S' logo and palm trees.

MADDY  
COON

MISSY  
PENNA

2009 SOFTBALL GUIDE



# STANFORD ATHLETICS

A Tradition of Excellence

**116** NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship award winners, including 10 in 2007-08.

**109** National Championships won by Stanford teams since 1926.

**95** Stanford student-athletes who earned All-America status in 2007-08.

**78** NCAA Championships won by Stanford teams since 1980.

**49** Stanford-affiliated athletes and coaches who represented the United States and seven other countries in the Summer Olympics held in Beijing, including 12 current student-athletes.

**32** Consecutive years Stanford teams have won at least one national championship.

**31** Stanford teams that advanced to postseason play in 2007-08.

**19** Different Stanford teams that have won at least one national championship.

**18** Stanford teams that finished ranked in the Top 10 in their respective sports in 2007-08.

**14** Consecutive U.S. Sports Academy Directors' Cups.

**14** Stanford student-athletes who earned Academic All-America recognition in 2007-08.

**9** Stanford student-athletes who earned conference athlete of the year honors in 2007-08.

**8** Regular season conference championships won by Stanford teams in 2007-08.

**6** Pacific-10 Conference Scholar Athletes of the Year Awards in 2007-08.

**5** Stanford teams that earned perfect scores of 1,000 in the NCAA's Academic Progress Report Rate in 2007-08.

**3** National Freshmen of the Year in 2007-08.

**3** National Coach of the Year honors in 2007-08.

**2** National Players of the Year in 2007-08.

**2** National Championships won by Stanford teams in 2007-08 (women's cross country, synchronized swimming).

**1** Walter Byers Award Winner in 2007-08.



2009

# STANFORD SOFTBALL



# S **STANFORD UNIVERSITY**

## **THE NATION'S PREMIER UNIVERSITY**

The world all at once: Limitless possibilities are at the heart of Stanford University.

Global positioning systems and gene splicing, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *The Grapes of Wrath*, the football huddle and the T-formation, Yahoo! and Google—all bear the mark of a Stanford individual. At Stanford, you will find the entire universe of what humankind knows and is endeavoring to know. From your first days on campus, this universe will be yours to explore, yours to discover. Stanford will ask that intellectual curiosity be your compass, that excellence be your true north.

Along the way, you will have the guidance of extraordinary faculty mentors who are at the forefront of advancing the world's understanding of subjects ranging from geophysics to history to bioscience to musical composition. You will also have the friendship of fellow students who will awe and inspire you as much for their humanity as for their talents. As you pursue the questions that interest you most, your mentors and friends will give you the freedom to risk temporary failure as you push yourself both intellectually and personally—along with the freedom and encouragement to pursue what you love.

Your reward will be the exhilaration of discovery—the exhilaration of true excellence.

— *Courtesy of Stanford University*



# BEYOND CAMPUS

## SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA



From bustling cosmopolitan cities to quiet coastal retreats, the San Francisco Bay Area is incomparable. First-class attractions, world-class athletics, cultural diversity, remarkable skylines and breathtaking views make this the region one of the world's most popular destinations.

Stanford's campus is located less than an hour's drive from San Francisco to the north, just minutes from the Silicon Valley to the south and within easy reach of the breathtaking coastal cities that line the Pacific Ocean to the west.

San Francisco has been named by *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine as the No. 1 travel destination in the United States for 15 years in a row. Surrounded on three sides by the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay, San Francisco is located on a hilly peninsula, occupying just 47 square miles of land. It is the center of the San Francisco Bay Area—the nation's fifth largest metropolitan area with a population of more than 7.0 million—and host to an estimated 16 million visitors each year.

South of the Stanford campus are the cities of San Jose and Santa Clara, the anchors to the Silicon Valley. Computer firms and software companies can be found throughout the region, which is considered the leader among the world's technology industry.

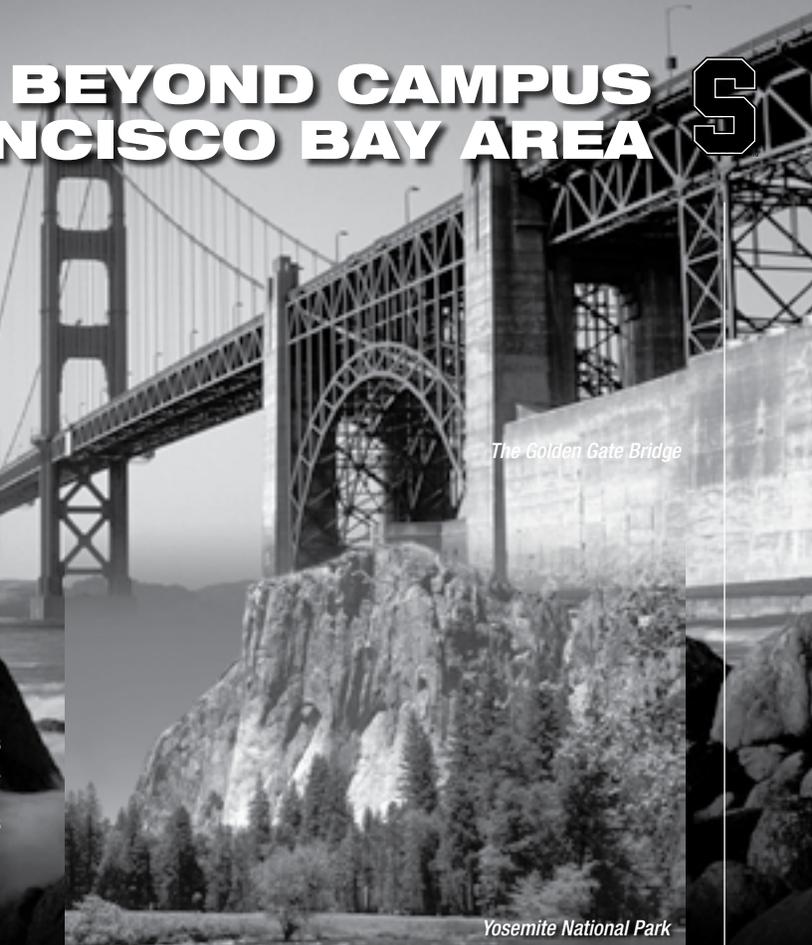
One of the world's greatest stretches of coastline is located within a short drive from Stanford. To the south is the Monterey Peninsula, which includes the picturesque towns of Monterey, Carmel and Santa Cruz. The Monterey Bay Aquarium, Cannery Row and 17-Mile Drive along Pebble Beach are musts for visitors.

Further north and east of Marin County is the home to the Napa Wine Country and within a few hours drive from the Bay Area is Lake Tahoe, home to some of the finest skiing in the country and the wonders of Yosemite National Park.

The Bay Area is also home to six major professional sports franchises, including the San Francisco 49ers, Oakland Raiders, San Francisco Giants, Oakland A's, San Jose Sharks and Golden State Warriors.



AT&T Park, home of the San Francisco Giants



The Golden Gate Bridge



Yosemite National Park

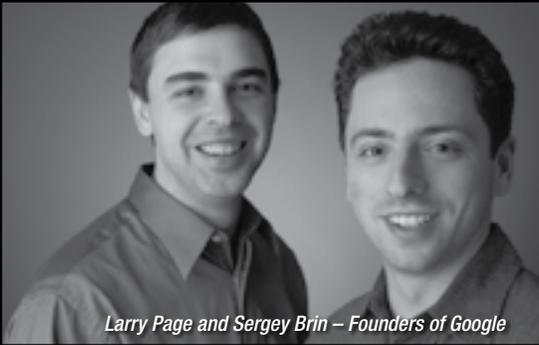


Carmel Valley



San Francisco Bay

# S NOTABLE ALUMNI



Larry Page and Sergey Brin – Founders of Google



Jerry Yang  
Co-founder of Yahoo



Phil Knight – Founder of Nike



Sandra Day O'Connor –  
Supreme Court Justice



Sally Ride – First American  
Woman in Space



Reese Witherspoon  
Academy Award Winning Actress



Jennifer Connelly  
Academy Award Winning Actress



Jessica Mendoza  
Olympic Gold Medalist



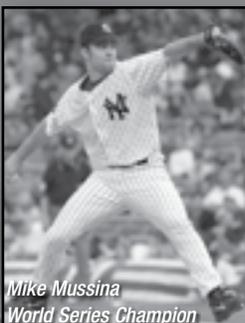
John Elway  
Pro Football Hall of Fame



Kerri Walsh  
Olympic Gold Medalist



Tiger Woods – Professional Golfer



Mike Mussina  
World Series Champion



Herbert Hoover – 31st President of the United States

Stanford alumni are some of the most distinguished people in the world today.

These include leaders in government, medicine, business, law, politics, education, sports and entertainment, among other fields.

Stanford's diverse alumni include the founders of Nike, Yahoo!, Hewlett-Packard and Google, a U.S. President, numerous elected government officials, Supreme Court justices, actors, actresses, athletes, a former Miss America and the first American woman in space, to name a few.

Stanford alums range from the "Father of the Internet" Vincent Cerf and author John Steinbeck to Academy Award-winning actresses Jennifer Connelly and Reese Witherspoon ... or top athletes Bob Mathias, Jim Plunkett, Tiger Woods, Summer Sanders and John McEnroe.

## Companies founded by Stanford graduates include:

- Cisco Systems
- Cypress Semi
  - eBay
- E\*Trade
- Excite
- Hewlett-Packard
  - IDEO
  - Intuit
- Netflix
- Nike
- The Learning Company
  - Silicon Graphics
- Sun Microsystems
  - Tandem
  - Trilogy
- Varian Associates
  - Yahoo!



Ted Koppel – Network News Anchor

# CAMPUS LIFE

Campus life at Stanford means celebrating the extraordinary talents among students, faculty, and organizations while attracting world-class speakers, performers, and scholars from around the world. These events offer the unique opportunity to live and learn in an inspiring college environment.

Whether it is a prominent speaker, a cappella concert, an academic colloquium, a nationally competitive athletic game, or the opening of a new exhibit at the on-campus museum, Stanford is abuzz with opportunities to discover new passions, engage with a vital community, and have fun.

Stanford's 6,600 undergraduates and 7,800 graduate students are distinguished by their initiative, love of learning and commitment to the larger world. Independent thinkers and relentlessly curious, students at Stanford bring passion and imagination to everything they do.

Stanford students move in many different directions, often simultaneously. Having the ability to engage in multiple interests and find friends who are not only similarly engaged, but also exceptionally talented in those areas, is one of the values of Stanford's diversity. Stanford recognizes that student organizations enrich the social, cultural and educational experiences of students and the larger University community. About 600 organized student groups at Stanford cover a range of interests: academic, international, political, environmental, religious, ethnic, social, community service and recreational.

— *Courtesy of Stanford University*





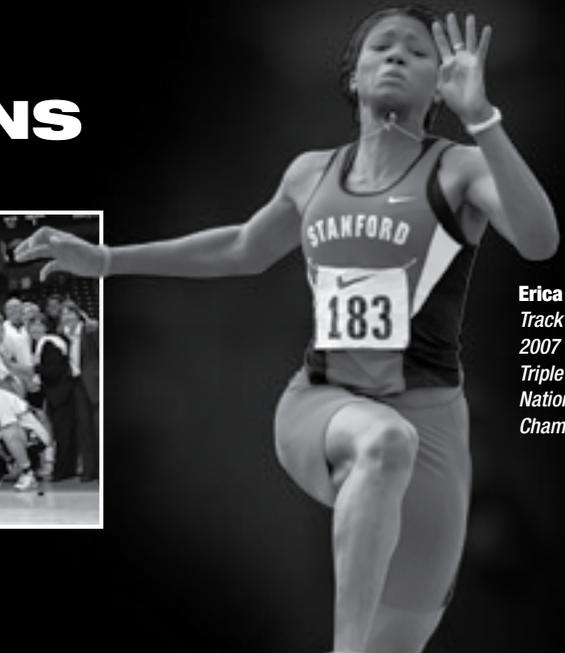
# HOME OF CHAMPIONS



**2007 Women's Cross Country**  
*Current National Champions*



**2007-08 Women's Basketball**  
*Pac-10 Champions*  
*NCAA Tournament Finalists*



**Erica McLain**  
*Track*  
*2007 Indoor Triple Jump National Champion*



**Julia Smit**  
*Women's Swimming*  
*NCAA 400 IM Champion*

**14 STRAIGHT NCAA DIVISION I DIRECTORS' CUP AWARDS**

**109 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**95 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS**

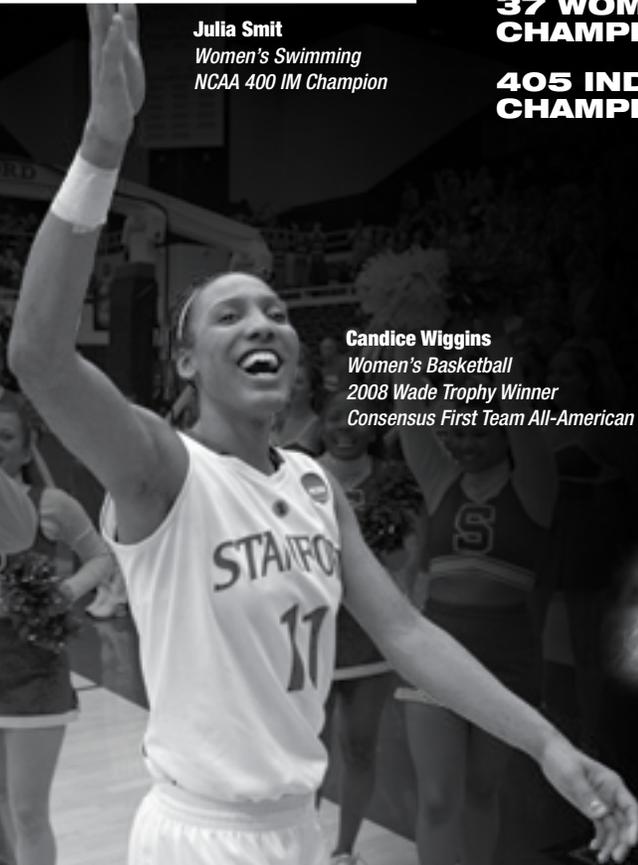
**58 MEN'S NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**37 WOMEN'S NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**405 INDIVIDUAL NCAA CHAMPIONS**



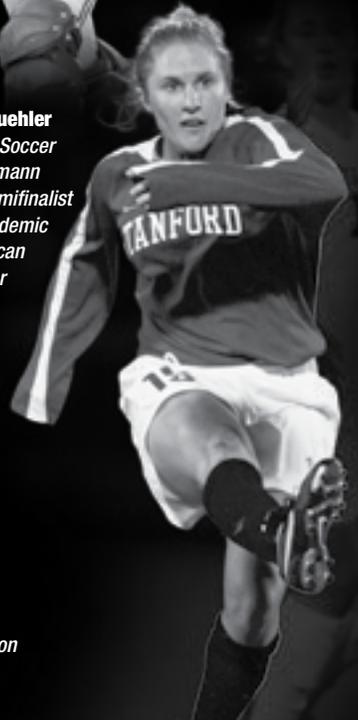
**Jason Castro**  
*Baseball*  
*2008 College World Series Participants*



**Candice Wiggins**  
*Women's Basketball*  
*2008 Wade Trophy Winner*  
*Consensus First Team All-American*



**Paul Kornfeld**  
*Men's Swimming*  
*100 and 200m NCAA Breaststroke Champion*  
*Pac-10 Swimmer of the Year*



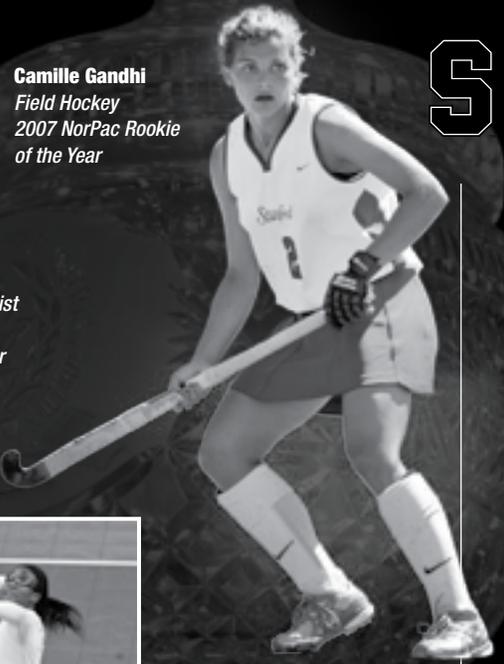
**Rachel Buehler**  
*Women's Soccer*  
*2007 Hermann Award Semifinalist*  
*ESPN Academic All-American of the Year*



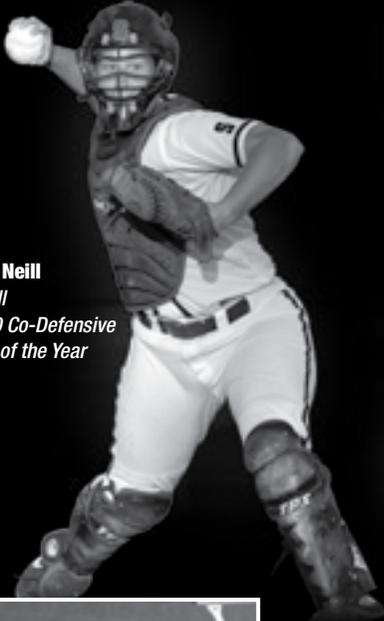
**2007 Field Hockey**  
NorPac Co-Champions



**Alex Clayton**  
Men's Tennis  
2008 NCAA Semifinalist  
Pac-10 Player and  
Newcomer of the Year



**Camille Gandhi**  
Field Hockey  
2007 NorPac Rookie  
of the Year



**Rosey Neill**  
Softball  
Pac-10 Co-Defensive  
Player of the Year



**Foluke Akinradewo**  
Women's Volleyball  
AVCA National Player of  
the Year



**Tabitha Yim**  
Women's Gymnastics  
Pac-10 All-Around Champion



**David Sender**  
MPSF Vault and Floor Champion



**2008 Synchronized Swimming**  
Current National Champions



**Jess Zutz**  
Field Hockey  
2007 NorPac Offensive Player of the Year



**2007 Women's Volleyball**  
Pac-10 Champions, NCAA Tournament Finalists



**Dylan Carney**  
Men's Gymnastics  
2008 Walter Byers Award Winner



# STANFORD SOFTBALL

## A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

**11 CONSECUTIVE YEARS IN THE NCAA TOURNAMENT**

**2 WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES APPEARANCES**

**5 NCAA REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**1 PAC-10 CHAMPIONSHIP**

**10 40-WIN SEASONS**

**131 CONSECUTIVE WEEKS IN THE NFCA/USA TODAY POLL**

**97 WEEKS IN THE NFCA/USA TODAY TOP-10**

**24 ALL-AMERICA HONORS**

**40 ALL-PACIFIC REGION SELECTIONS**

**78 ALL PAC-10 AWARDS**

**1 PAC-10 PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**3 PAC-10 DEFENSIVE PLAYERS OF THE YEAR**

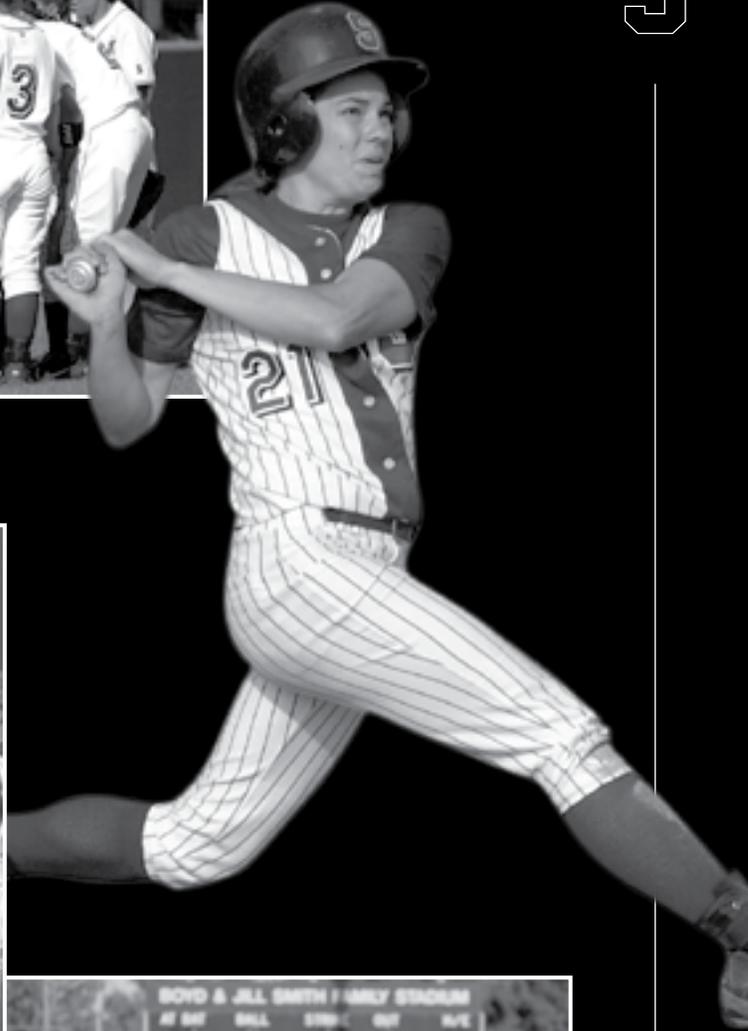
**48 NFCA SCHOLAR-ATHLETES**

**74 PAC-10 ALL-ACADEMIC AWARDS**

**8 ESPN ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT SELECTIONS**

**2 OLYMPIANS**







# STANFORD ALL-AMERICANS

Stanford has a history of consistently producing All-American softball players, with at least one athlete recognized in each of the last 11 seasons. In five of those years, the Cardinal has had a school-record three players honored. Since 1998, 13 players have combined for 24 All-America awards, including seven first-team selections.

In 1998, just a season after head coach John Rittman took the reins of the program, a trio of juniors - pitcher Marcy Crouch, pitcher Becky Blevins and designated player Michele Acosta - led Stanford to its first NCAA Tournament and were later recognized as the school's first All-Americans. The next season, Jessica Mendoza arrived on The Farm, and earned the school's inaugural first-team All-America award after hitting .415 with 57 RBI as a rookie. The Stanford left fielder went on to earn three more first-team honors, and became the school's first four-time first-team All-American.

Since then, Stanford has produced a trio of three-time All-Americans - pitcher Dana Sorensen, first baseman Sarah Beeson and outfielder Catalina Morris. Last year, sophomore Alissa Haber joined Olympian Lauren Lappin as a two-time honoree.

In 2007, Haber became the fifth freshman All-American in program history, following the footsteps of Mendoza (1999), Sorensen (2000), Morris (2003) and Michelle Smith (2005).

In 2009, the Cardinal returns two All-Americans to the field - Haber and pitcher Missy Penna.

## Stanford All-Americans

*Michele Acosta - 1998*

*Becky Blevins - 1998*

*Marcy Crouch - 1998*

*Jessica Mendoza - 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002*

*Kellie Wiginton - 1999*

*Sarah Beeson - 2000, 2001, 2002*

*Dana Sorensen - 2000, 2001, 2004*

*Catalina Morris - 2003, 2005, 2006*

*Jessica Allister - 2004*

*Lauren Lappin - 2004, 2005*

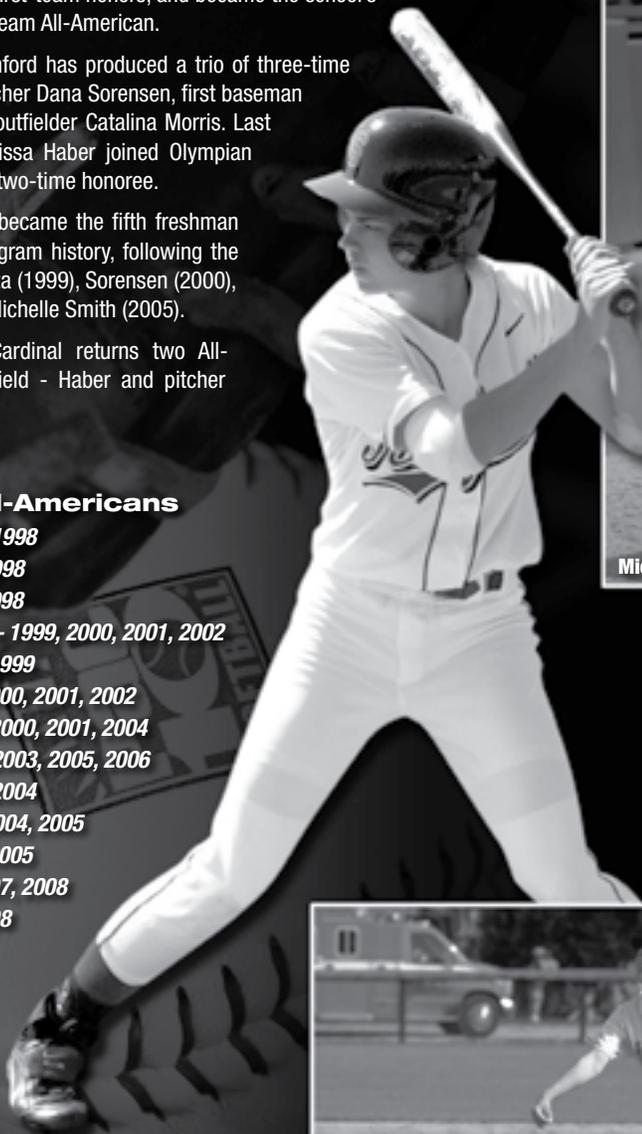
*Michelle Smith - 2005*

*Alissa Haber - 2007, 2008*

*Missy Penna - 2008*



**Three-Time All-American Sarah Beeson**



**Michele Acosta**



**Kellie Wiginton**



**Becky Blevins**

**Four-Time All-American Jessica Mendoza**

Missy Penna



Alissa Haber



Lauren Lappin



Three-Time All-American  
Catalina Morris



Marcy Crouch



Jessica Allister



Three-Time All-American Dana Sorensen



Michelle Smith



S

# S

# STANFORD AND USA SOFTBALL



Jessica Mendoza

John Rittman



Rosey Neill and Alissa Haber

# USA Softball

Stanford softball has a tradition of producing players who go on to compete internationally with the USA Softball program. Over the years, Cardinal players have represented Team USA at such events as the Olympic Games, the U.S. Cup, the ISF World Championships, the Pan Am Games, the World Cup of Softball, the Junior Pan Am Championships, the Junior World Championships, the World University Games, the Japan Cup and the Canada Cup.

Highlighting Stanford's success are its two Olympians, Jessica Mendoza '02 and Lauren Lappin '06. Mendoza, a veteran outfielder for the USA Team, was a key member of the gold medal-winning team in Athens in 2004 and the silver medal-winning team in Beijing last summer. Mendoza started every game in left field and hit .333 with two doubles, four home runs and nine RBI over the course of the '08 Games. Lappin, an Olympic alternate as a rising junior at Stanford in 2004, was a key utility player for Team USA in Beijing last summer.

Stanford head coach John Rittman has been a member of the USA Team coaching staff since 2001, and coached at his second Olympic Games last summer. Rittman was an assistant coach for the team that captured gold in Athens in 2004, as well as the team that went 8-1 and took home silver from Beijing last August.

Current Stanford players Rosey Neill '10, Alissa Haber '10 and Ashley Hansen '12 competed on the USA Junior Team that won gold at the 2007 ISF Junior World Championships in Enschede, Netherlands and the 2006 Junior Pan Am Championships in Puerto Rico. Hansen was the only high school player invited to the U.S. Women's National Team selection camp in September 2007.

A number of other Stanford players have competed on USA Elite Teams over the years. Catalina Morris '06 was a member of the 2004 and 2005 USA Elite Teams, with teammate Dana Sorensen '04 joining her on the latter squad. Jackie Rinehart '07 competed on the Elite Team in 2004, and won a gold medal at the World University Games in Taiwan in 2006. Kellie Wiginton '00 was a member of the 1995 USA Junior World Team, while Sarah Beeson '02 was a member of numerous USA National Team pools.



Ashley Hansen



Kellie Wiginton



Dana Sorensen



Lauren Lappin



Jessica Mendoza



Catalina Morris



Jackie Rinehart



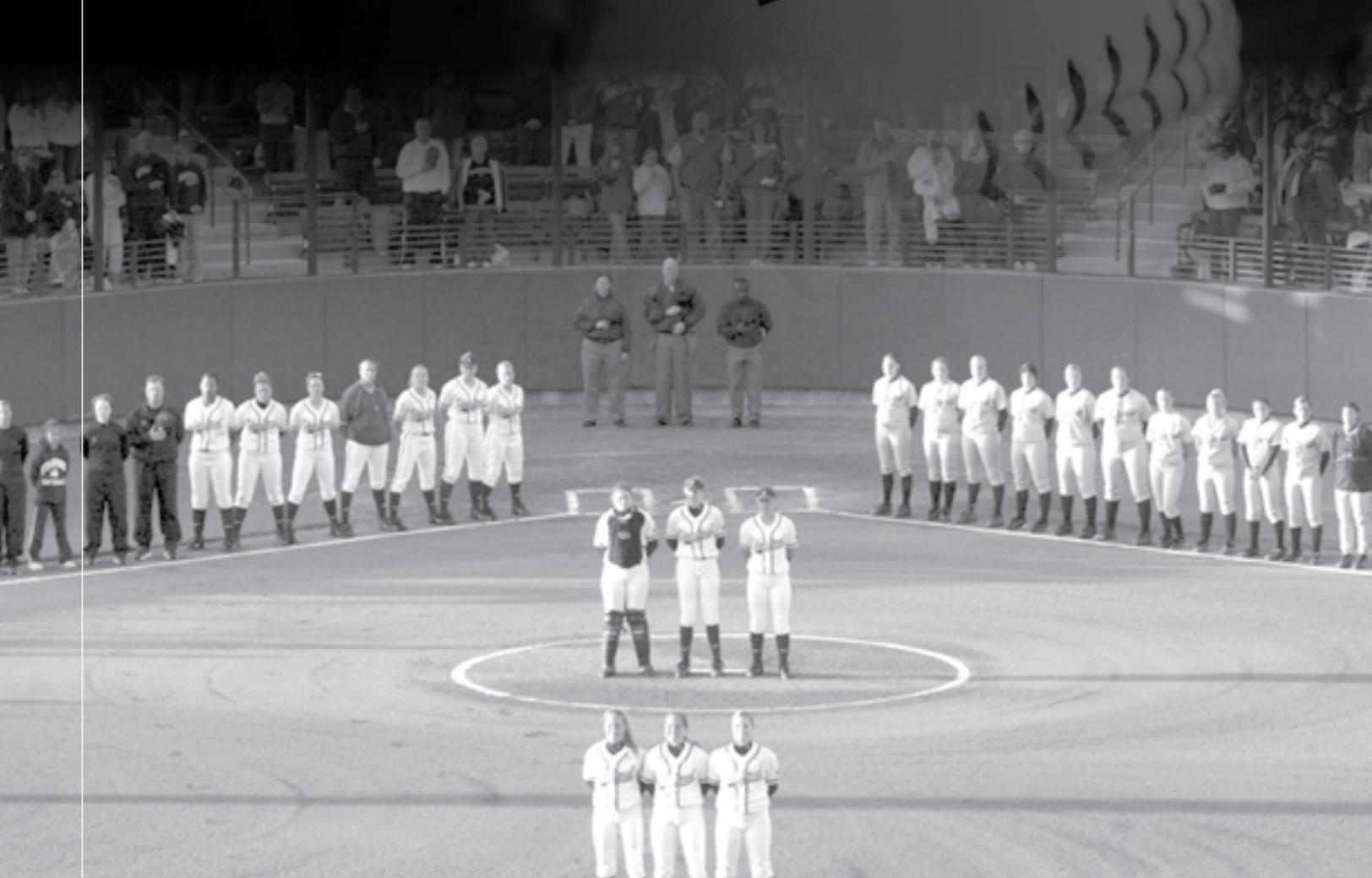
# S BOYD AND JILL SMITH FAMILY STADIUM

The Stanford softball team plays its home games at Boyd and Jill Smith Family Stadium, located just south of Sunken Diamond. The first phase of construction was completed prior to the 1997 season while the second phase, completed in the spring of 2001, included permanent seating, restroom facilities, a new batting cage and a press box. This year, the stadium was upgraded with a new outfield wall.

The stadium has a fixed seating capacity of 820 and a total capacity of 1,500, scalable to 3,500. The stadium has fixed, theater-style seating with individual seats. Wheelchair seating is located throughout the facility. The field surface is a bermuda rye blend, mowed to one inch.

Stanford has enjoyed much success at its home park over the years. Since the stadium was built, the Cardinal has gone 247-94-1 (.724) at home, including a record 28 wins there in 2004. The team annually hosts a number of preseason tournaments, welcoming teams from around the country to compete in its home facility.

Over the last eight seasons, the stadium has played host to three NCAA Regionals (2001, 2004, 2007) and an NCAA Super Regional (2005). At home, the Cardinal has won 10 postseason contests and captured two regional titles.





# S ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Stanford softball players are challenged to excel both in the classroom and on the field. In the latest Academic Progress Rate (APR) scores, which measure eligibility, retention and graduation over a four-year period, all 35 teams at Stanford exceeded the NCAA's standards. The softball program was one of 13 Cardinal teams to earn a perfect or near-perfect score.

Over the past five years, Cardinal softball players have been recognized with Pac-10 academic awards 28 times. In 2008, pitcher Missy Penna was named to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District First Team, the seventh player in program history to earn an all-district honor. Penna was also one of three conference players to earn a spot on both the All-Pac-10 First Team and the Pac-10 All-Academic First Team last season.

Stanford was among the top 30 Division I teams recognized for academic excellence with the NFCA/Girls Got Game Team Academic Award last year as well. Stanford was one of two Pac-10 teams honored, boasted the highest team GPA in the conference (3.282) and was one of three teams in the top 30 that advanced to a 2008 NCAA Super Regional. Six Stanford players – Penna, Becky McCullough, Jess Zutz, Anna Beardman, Tricia Aggabao and Autumn Albers – earned NFCA Scholar-Athlete awards last season.



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## 2009 STANFORD SOFTBALL QUICK FACTS

### General Information

**Location:** Stanford, Calif.  
**Enrollment:** 13,198 (6,584 undergraduates)  
**Nickname:** Cardinal  
**Colors:** Cardinal and White  
**Home Field (Capacity):** Smith Family Stadium (820)  
**Conference:** Pacific-10  
**President:** John Hennessy  
**Athletic Director:** Bob Bowsby  
**Senior Woman Administrator:** Beth Goode  
**Website:** www.GoStanford.com

### Coaching Staff

**Head Coach:** John Rittman (New Mexico State '86)  
**Record at Stanford (Years):** 514-247-3 (12 years)  
**Career Record (Years):** Same  
**Associate Head Coach:** Trisha Ford (Saint Mary's '99)  
**Assistant Coach:** Jessica Allister (Stanford '04)  
**Student Assistant Coach:** Michelle Smith (Stanford '08)  
**Softball Office Phone:** (650) 725-1410

### Team Information

**2008 Record:** 49-15  
**2008 Conference Record (Finish):** 11-10 (4th)  
**2008 Postseason Finish:** 3-3, NCAA Super Regional  
**Final Ranking:** 11/13  
**Starters Returning/Lost:** 5/4  
**Letterwinners Returning/Lost:** 10/7  
**Pitchers Returning/Lost:** 2/1  
**Newcomers:** 6

### Media Relations

**Softball Contact:** Kendall Johnson  
**Softball Contact Phone (Office):** (650) 723-0996  
**Softball Contact Phone (Cell):** (206) 214-5583  
**Softball Contact Email:** kendallj@stanford.edu  
**Media Relations Fax:** (650) 725-2957  
**Mailing Address:**  
 Athletic Media Relations  
 Arrillaga Family Sports Center  
 641 East Campus Drive  
 Stanford, CA 94305-6150

### Media Information

Interview requests for players and coaches must be coordinated with the Stanford Athletic Media Relations office. Interview requests should be submitted at least 24 hours in advance. Visit [www.gostanford.com](http://www.gostanford.com) for news releases, player profiles and updated statistics.

**Credits:** The 2009 Stanford softball guide was written and edited by Kendall Johnson. Design, layout and production by Maggie Oren. Photography by David Gonzales, Kyle Terada and USA Softball. Printing provided by Dumont Printing.



# 2009 CARDINAL ROSTER



*Top row (l to r): Student Assistant Coach Michelle Smith, Assistant Coach Jessica Allister, Director of Sports Performance Brandon Marcello, Missy Penna, Mary Kate Smith, Melisa Koutz, Head Coach John Rittman, Associate Head Coach Trisha Ford, Athletic Trainer Christina Puno. Middle row: Shannon Koplitz, Rosey Neill, Alissa Haber, Jenna Becerra, Maya Burns, Maddy Coon, Christina Goswiller. Bottom row: Brittany Minder, Sarah Hassman, Autumn Albers, Erikka Moreno, Ashley Hansen, Ashley Chinn.*

## 2009 STANFORD SOFTBALL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	B/T	Yr.	Ht.	Hometown (High School)
1	Jenna Becerra	INF/OF/P	R/R	FR	5-8	Camarillo, Calif. (Westlake)
2	Maddy Coon	INF	R/R	SR	5-7	Chappaqua, N.Y. (Horace Greeley)
3	Ashley Hansen	INF	L/R	FR	5-7	Chandler, Ariz. (Corona del Sol)
4	Sarah Hassman	OF	S/R	FR	5-6	Cupertino, Calif. (Monta Vista)
5	Melisa Koutz	INF	R/R	SO	5-10	Valencia, Calif. (Saugus)
6	Alissa Haber	OF	L/L	JR	5-8	Newark, Calif. (Newark Memorial)
7	Ashley Chinn	P	R/R	SO	5-6	Belmont, Calif. (Carlmont)
8	Mary Kate Smith	INF	R/R	FR	5-10	Tampa, Fla. (Chamberlain)
9	Missy Penna	P/INF	R/R	SR	5-10	Miami, Fla. (Southwest)
12	Autumn Albers	OF	L/R	SO	5-3	Danville, Calif. (San Ramon Valley)
13	Rosey Neill	C	R/R	JR	5-7	Laguna Hills, Calif. (Laguna Hills)
21	Erikka Moreno	INF	R/R	SO	5-7	Villa Park, Calif. (Orange Lutheran)
25	Maya Burns	C/UTL	R/R	FR	5-8	San Mateo, Calif. (St. Ignatius)
27	Brittany Minder	C	R/R	SO	5-3	Moreno Valley, Calif. (Valley View)
33	Christina Goswiller	INF	R/R	FR	5-9	Manhattan Beach, Calif. (Mira Costa)
36	Shannon Koplitz	INF/OF	R/R	JR	5-6	New Orleans, La. (Benjamin Franklin)

## PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Jenna Becerra – Be-SARAH  
 Alissa Haber – HEY-ber  
 Shannon Koplitz – COPE-litz  
 Melisa Koutz – Cowitz



## COACHING STAFF

**Head Coach:** John Rittman (13th Season, New Mexico State '86)  
**Associate Head Coach:** Trisha Ford (Sixth Season, Saint Mary's '99)  
**Assistant Coach:** Jessica Allister (Third Season, Stanford '04)  
**Student Assistant Coach:** Michelle Smith (First Season, Stanford '08)



# 2009 **OUTLOOK**



## Stanford Begins New Year With High Expectations

A core group of veterans and six highly-touted newcomers comprise a 2009 Stanford softball squad that enters the year with high expectations. Again playing one of the nation's toughest schedules, the Cardinal looks to compete for a Pac-10 title, maintain its place in the upper echelons of the NFCA poll, return to the Women's College World Series and battle for its first NCAA title.

After posting the second-most wins in school history last season and advancing to its third NCAA Super Regional in four years, the Cardinal is ready to take the next step.

"This season, we have some returning players with a great deal of experience and we look forward to having them lead us to the next level," said head coach John Rittman. "We've been to Super Regionals and this team is very hungry to get past that point. We're ready to get to the World Series and vie for a national championship."

With just five upperclassmen, the Cardinal is, for the most part, a very young team. Yet, the squad is armed with some of the Pac-10's most talented veterans at key positions. All five upperclassmen – Missy Penna, Maddy Coon, Shannon Koplitz, Alissa Haber and Rosey Neill – have been starters since the day they arrived on The Farm. The group has also been well decorated, accumulating 10 All-Pac-10 awards, six all-region honors and three All-America nods. Statistically, the fivesome has already combined to score 329 Cardinal runs, notch 531 hits and belt 73 home runs. It also includes one of the best pitchers in Stanford history – Penna.

Stanford's veterans are only half of the story this season, however. Rittman and his staff have also landed one of the nation's top recruiting classes, which is headlined by infielder Ashley Hansen, the only high school player invited to USA Softball's selection camp for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"We have added six extremely talented freshmen and, despite losing five seniors, we feel like we're a much improved team," said Rittman. "The freshmen have brought in a lot of versatility, speed and offensive talent. They can each play a variety of positions, which gives us depth and competition within the program."

Coaching this arsenal of talent is Rittman, one of the winningest and most respected coaches in collegiate softball. Last summer, he was a member of the U.S. Olympic coaching staff for the second time, helping Team USA to a silver medal at the Beijing Games. During the last 12 seasons, he has guided the Cardinal program into the ranks of the nation's powerhouses and established the team as a consistent force in the battle for Pac-10 and NCAA titles. Since Rittman took the helm of the program 12 years ago, Stanford has posted 12 consecutive winning seasons, made 11 straight NCAA appearances, tallied 10 40-win seasons and racked up a .675 winning percentage.

With all of the tools in place, Rittman is confident that the Cardinal has the potential to be a national title contender.

"We expect our team to do great things this year," he said. "Our combination of veterans with a lot of postseason experience and freshmen with a lot of talent is going to put us in great position to compete for a championship."

Following is a look at the 2009 Cardinal by position:

### Pitchers

Stanford is one of nine Division I teams returning a 2008 All-American to the circle this year, and the nation's only squad carrying a pitcher with more than 900 career strikeouts. Ace Missy Penna enters her senior season as the country's active strikeout leader and its third-winningest active pitcher. A three-time All Pac-10 pick, she is undoubtedly one of 2009's most seasoned and dominant throwers.

Penna set a school record with 37 wins last season, pitched a school-best 335 innings and became the eighth player in Pac-10 history, and the first at Stanford, to record 400 or more strikeouts in a single year. She finished second in the Pac-10 and sixth nationally in wins last year and ranked among the nation's top 20 in both earned run average and opponent hits per game.

As Penna attempts to carry the Cardinal to the Pac-10 title and beyond, she will likely shatter Stanford's career win, strikeout and shutout records along the way. In her final season, she will be looked upon to provide leadership on a young squad and once again dominate in the circle.

Penna is not the only talented hurler on Stanford's pitching staff, however. As a freshman last year, Ashley Chinn pitched some big innings behind Penna, and together the duo struck out 508 batters and posted one of the top 15 ERAs in the country. In her rookie campaign, Chinn threw two no-hitters, including the school's seventh perfect game, and posted an 11-2 record. Now, with a year of valuable experience, she will be relied upon to consistently throw key innings for the Cardinal.

Newcomer Jenna Becerra, who was named the 2008 Marmonte League Pitcher of the Year as a senior at Westlake High School last year, will add another level of depth to the Cardinal pitching options.

### Catchers

Behind the plate, Stanford returns one of the top all-around players in the conference in junior Rosey Neill. As a sophomore last season, Neill led the league in putouts and became the second player in school history to be named Pac-10 Defensive Player of the Year. Offensively, she emerged as one of the nation's top power hitters, leading the conference and finishing 10th nationally with 19 home runs.

After being named the top catcher in the Pacific Region and earning a spot on the All-Pac-10 First Team, Neill steps into a new role as an upperclassman this season. As a veteran, she will be looked upon to provide leadership behind the plate and bring her consistent and powerful bat to the middle of the Cardinal lineup.

Competing with Neill for time behind the plate this season will be sophomore Brittany Minder and freshman Maya Burns. Minder, a capable power hitter, saw 28 at bats as a rookie last year, hit her first career home run and made five appearances as a catcher. Burns,

a graduate of St. Ignatius College Prep in San Francisco, adds further depth to the 2009 roster, not only as a catcher but also in the outfield and at the plate.

## Infield

Stanford boasts a talented group of infielders this season, including returning starters Maddy Coon, Shannon Koplitz and Melisa Koutz.

Coon has seen significant time at third base and shortstop in her three years as a Cardinal starter and will provide valuable experience in the infield. Entering her senior season with one of the best career batting averages in school history (.300), she has the ability to once again be one of the conference's most dangerous hitters. Last year, Coon carried one of the top on-base percentages in the Pac-10 (.444) and was named the best shortstop in the Pacific Region. In 2009, she will likely play second, shortstop or third base and provide power and consistency in the middle of the Cardinal lineup.

Koplitz, a versatile junior, started every game at second base for Stanford last season and is a candidate to play second, third and outfield this year. The New Orleans, La. native, who earned All-Pac-10 honorable mention accolades as a freshman in 2007, has provided steady defense and a consistent bat in the Cardinal lineup for the last two years. With the ability to hit for power, drive in runs and provide speed on the base paths, Koplitz will be looked to as a consistent force in the Stanford batting order.

Koutz wasted no time making her mark on the collegiate game last season, earning the starting role at first base and a spot on the Pac-10 All-Freshman Team. Koutz recorded the highest fielding percentage of any infielder in the Pac-10 last year (.997) and provided three game-winning hits in Pac-10 play, including a 10th-inning home run to beat eventual national champion Arizona State. This season, Koutz will look to reclaim her spot at first base and provide consistency in the lineup, both offensively and defensively.

Sophomore Erikka Moreno, who made 10 appearances as a freshman last season, also returns to the infield this year and will challenge for a spot in the starting lineup.

Four talented newcomers will also battle for places in the infield this season - Ashley Hansen, Jenna Becerra, Mary Kate Smith and Christina Goswiler.

Hansen, a USA Junior National Team veteran who was the only high school player selected to participate in USA Softball's Olympic selection camp, is a capable shortstop with the ability to hit for power and average. Becerra, who could see time at second, shortstop, third or in the outfield, has shown quickness defensively and a promising bat. Goswiler and Smith, both accomplished high school power hitters, will compete for the spot at first base.

## Outfield

In the outfield, Stanford returns two-time All-American Alissa Haber, a junior who has led the Cardinal in nearly every offensive category the last two years. Haber hit .374 last season and became just the 10th player in school history to record 70 or more hits in a single year (77). Halfway through her career, her batting average ranks second only to two-time Olympian Jessica Mendoza. As an upperclassman, Haber will provide leadership in the outfield and look to continue to be one of the most dangerous hitters in the Pac-10.

Next to Haber, Stanford will be forced to fill vacancies left by graduated seniors Tricia Aggabao and Anna Beardman. Competitors for those spots include junior Shannon Koplitz, sophomore Autumn Albers and newcomers Sarah Hassman, Jenna Becerra and Maya Burns.

Koplitz, a two-year starter and consistent hitter, is a versatile player who will likely see time in both the infield and outfield. As a freshman, Koplitz earned All-Pac-10 honorable mention as the team's starting right fielder. Albers, a reserve last year, brings valuable speed

on defense, on the base paths and as a slapper at the plate.

Hassman, a talented slapper, will likely jump into the lineup right away, adding depth to the Stanford outfield with speed and the ability to get on base. Becerra, a versatile outfielder, infielder and pitcher, will also compete for a starting role in the outfield, while Burns will see time as both a catcher and outfielder in her first year on The Farm.

## Schedule

As usual, Rittman has set another challenging preseason agenda for the Cardinal, which will be followed by another run through the nation's most competitive softball conference. Stanford will play 29 games against teams that competed in last year's NCAA Tournament and 15 against teams that finished last season ranked in the top 25.

"Our nonconference schedule is going to be difficult this year," said Rittman. "We've lined up some great competition, which will help us develop as a team. This also allows our freshmen to make the transition to playing at this level before we get into a very tough Pac-10 season."

Stanford kicks off the year at a familiar tournament, the Kajikawa Classic in Tempe, Ariz. The Cardinal meets McNeese State in its season opener on Feb. 6 and continues play against Oklahoma State, Texas Tech, Kansas and 2008 NCAA Tournament participant Central Florida over the opening weekend.

The team will be on the road for the second weekend of the season as well, heading south to San Diego to make an appearance at the Campbell/Cartier Classic, Feb. 12-15. The weekend will be highlighted by a Friday doubleheader that puts the Cardinal up against No. 22/23 Long Beach State and No. 24/24 San Diego State.

After hosting Sacramento State, Notre Dame and Western Kentucky in its first of three home tournaments, Stanford will head to the DeMarini Invitational at Cal State Fullerton. Stanford will face Indiana, UC Riverside, Minnesota and Cal Poly before squaring off with 2008 NCAA Tournament participant Cal State Fullerton on the Titans' home field to conclude the event.

The Cardinal hosts back-to-back home tournaments in March before jumping into the competitive Pac-10 season. Among the challengers in Stanford's 11-game preseason home streak are two teams coming off NCAA appearances, Princeton and Winthrop, as well as the always-competitive Pacific Tigers. During the stretch, Stanford will also have a second showdown with San Diego State.

The squad begins the conference season at home, meeting 2008 Pac-10 runner-up UCLA at Smith Family Stadium on March 27. The Pac-10 will again provide a challenging agenda, as seven of the eight conference teams return from NCAA appearances, five are coming off NCAA Super Regional trips and three are back from runs to the Women's College World Series. Five of the eight conference teams, including Stanford, finished 2008 ranked in the NFCA poll.

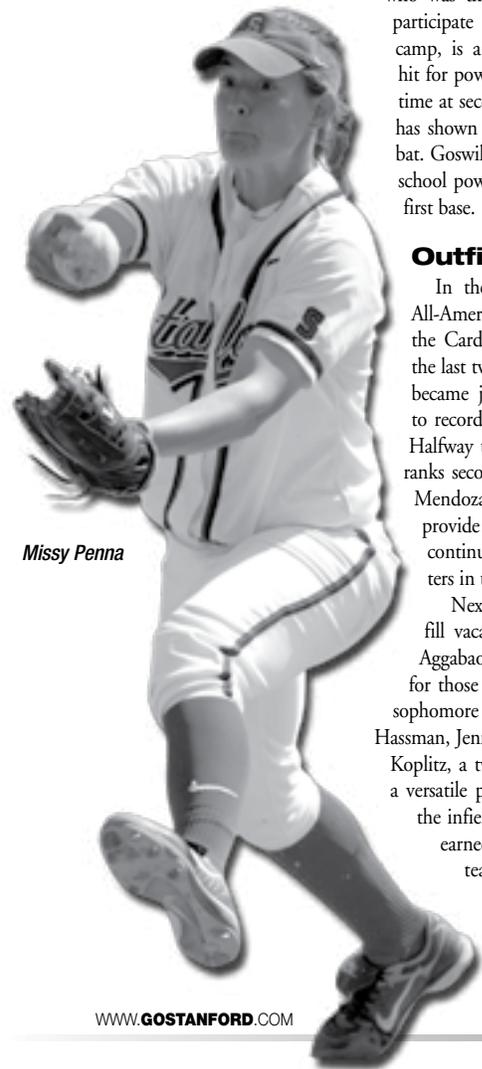
"The Pac-10 Conference is by far the best softball conference in the country and it's always a challenge to play in," said Rittman. "This conference is a lot of fun, brings out the best in our team and prepares us for our ultimate goal - to win a national championship."

Highlighting the 2009 home season for the Cardinal will be a matchup against Bay Area rival California on April 9, a showdown with defending national champion Arizona State on May 1 and a pair of contests against traditional powerhouse Arizona, May 2-3.

NCAA Regional action begins May 15, and leads up to the 28th annual Women's College World Series, May 28-June 3 in Oklahoma City.



Maddy Coon



Missy Penna



# 2009 OPPONENTS

## 2009 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
<i>Kajikawa Classic</i>		
Feb. 6	McNeese State	9:30 a.m. (MT)
Feb. 6	Oklahoma State	12 p.m. (MT)
Feb. 7	Texas Tech	1:30 p.m. (MT)
Feb. 7	Kansas	6:30 p.m. (MT)
Feb. 8	Central Florida	11 a.m. (MT)
<i>Campbell/Cartier Classic</i>		
Feb. 12	UC Santa Barbara	4:30 p.m.
Feb. 13	Long Beach State	4:30 p.m.
Feb. 13	San Diego State	7 p.m.
Feb. 14	Utah State	11:30 a.m.
Feb. 15	UC Santa Barbara	9 a.m.
<i>Stanford Nike Invitational</i>		
Feb. 20	Sacramento State	12:15 p.m.
Feb. 20	Notre Dame	2:30 p.m.
Feb. 21	Western Kentucky	12:15 p.m.
Feb. 21	Notre Dame	2:30 p.m.
Feb. 22	Western Kentucky	11:15 a.m.
Feb. 22	Sacramento State	1:30 p.m.
Feb. 24	Saint Mary's	6 p.m.
<i>DeMarini Invitational</i>		
Feb. 27	Indiana	9 a.m.
Feb. 27	Minnesota	1:30 p.m.
Feb. 28	UC Riverside	9 a.m.
Feb. 28	Cal Poly	1:30 p.m.
Mar. 1	Cal State Fullerton	1:30 p.m.
<i>Stanford Louisville Slugger Classic</i>		
Mar. 6	Illinois State	1:30 p.m.
Mar. 6	Penn State	3:45 p.m.
Mar. 7	San Diego State	1:30 p.m.
Mar. 7	Vermont	3:45 p.m.
Mar. 8	Vermont	11:15 a.m.
Mar. 8	UC Davis	1:30 p.m.
<i>Stanford Invitational</i>		
Mar. 20	Princeton	6 p.m.
Mar. 21	Winthrop	1:30 p.m.
Mar. 21	Santa Clara	3:45 p.m.
Mar. 22	Pacific	1:30 p.m.
Mar. 23	Cal Poly	1 p.m.
Mar. 27	UCLA*	7 p.m.
Mar. 28	Washington*	1 p.m.
Mar. 29	Washington*	12 p.m.
Apr. 3	Oregon State*	3 p.m.
Apr. 4	Oregon*	1 p.m.
Apr. 5	Oregon*	12 p.m.
Apr. 9	Cal*	7 p.m.
Apr. 10	Cal*	4 p.m.
Apr. 11	Cal*	1 p.m.
Apr. 14	Santa Clara	6 p.m.
Apr. 17	Arizona*	7 p.m.
Apr. 18	Arizona State*	7 p.m.
Apr. 19	Arizona State*	12 p.m.
Apr. 22	San Jose State	6 p.m.
Apr. 24	Oregon*	7 p.m.
Apr. 25	Oregon State*	1 p.m.
Apr. 26	Oregon State*	12 p.m.
May 1	Arizona State*	7 p.m.
May 2	Arizona*	7 p.m.
May 3	Arizona*	12 p.m.
May 7	Washington*	1 p.m.
May 8	UCLA*	3 p.m.
May 9	UCLA*	12 p.m.
May 15-17	NCAA Regionals	
May 22-24	NCAA Super Regionals	
May 28-June 3	Women's College World Series (Oklahoma City, Okla.)	

\*Denotes Pac-10 Conference Game

## Series Record vs Opponents

School	Win	Loss	%
Alabama	2	3	0.400
Arizona	5	44	0.110 (1 Tie)
Arizona State	20	27	0.426
Arkansas	2	0	1.000
Auburn	2	0	1.000
Baylor	1	1	0.500
Birmingham-South.	1	0	1.000
Boston College	2	0	1.000
Boston University	1	1	0.500
Bowling Green	1	1	0.500
BYU	5	1	0.833
California	20	29	0.408
Cal Poly	6	3	0.667
Campbell	2	0	1.000
Central Michigan	2	1	0.667
Coastal Carolina	2	0	1.000
Coll. of Charleston	2	0	1.000
Coll. of Notre Dame	2	0	1.000
CS Fullerton	13	4	0.765
CS Northridge	6	3	0.667
DePaul	1	0	1.000
Drake	2	0	1.000
East Carolina	1	0	1.000
Eastern Kentucky	1	0	1.000
Eastern Michigan	2	0	1.000
Florida	0	1	0.000
Florida A&M	1	0	1.000
Florida Atlantic	3	0	1.000
Florida International	1	0	1.000
Florida State	1	0	1.000
Fordham	1	0	1.000
Fresno State	12	7	0.632
Georgia	2	1	0.667
Georgia Tech	1	1	0.500
Georgia Southern	1	0	1.000
Harvard	2	0	1.000
Hawai'i	5	1	0.833
Hofstra	5	1	0.833
Illinois	3	0	1.000
Illinois-Chicago	7	1	0.875
Illinois State	1	0	1.000
Iowa State	1	0	1.000
Jacksonville	1	0	1.000
Kansas	3	0	1.000
Kentucky	3	0	1.000
Lehigh	1	0	1.000
Long Beach State	9	4	0.679 (1 Tie)
Long Island	1	0	1.000
Louisiana-Lafayette	1	0	1.000
Louisville	1	0	1.000
Loyola-Chicago	1	0	1.000
Loyola Marymount	6	4	0.600
LSU	3	2	0.600
Marist	1	0	1.000
Maryland	1	0	1.000
Massachusetts	5	2	0.714
Menlo College	2	0	1.000
Miami (Ohio)	1	0	1.000
Michigan	3	3	0.500
Michigan State	0	1	0.000
Midd. Tennessee St.	1	0	1.000
Minnesota	1	0	1.000
Mississippi State	2	1	0.667
Missouri	8	0	1.000
Nebraska	4	3	0.571
NE Louisiana	1	1	0.500
Nevada	1	0	1.000
New Mexico	2	0	1.000
New Mexico State	1	1	0.500
North Carolina	1	0	1.000
North Dakota State	1	0	1.000
Northwestern	2	5	0.286
Northwestern State	1	0	1.000
Notre Dame	1	0	1.000
Ohio	2	0	1.000
Ohio State	1	0	1.000
Oklahoma	2	1	0.667
Oklahoma State	5	3	0.625
Oregon	25	20	0.556
Oregon State	33	15	0.688
Pacific	18	10	0.643
Penn State	5	0	1.000
Point Loma	0	2	0.000
Portland State	6	1	0.857
Princeton	3	1	0.750
Providence	1	0	1.000
Purdue	3	0	1.000
Robert Morris	1	0	1.000
Sacramento State	21	6	0.778
Saint Mary's	24	6	0.800
San Diego	1	2	0.333
San Diego State	8	3	0.727
San Francisco State	7	0	1.000
San Jose State	18	10	0.643
Santa Clara	35	4	0.897
Seton Hall	2	0	1.000
Sonoma State	0	4	0.000
South Carolina	1	0	1.000 (1 Tie)
Southern Illinois	1	1	0.500
Southern Mississippi	1	0	1.000
Southern Utah	1	0	1.000
South Florida	3	1	0.750
St. John's	1	0	1.000
SW Missouri State	1	1	0.500
SW Texas State	1	0	1.000
Syracuse	1	0	1.000
Tennessee	3	2	0.600
Tenn. - Chattanooga	1	1	0.500
Tennessee Tech	1	0	1.000
Texas	0	4	0.000
Texas A&M	0	3	0.000
Texas A&M - CC	2	0	1.000
Texas State	1	0	1.000
Texas Tech	10	0	1.000
Toledo	2	0	1.000
Tulsa	2	0	1.000
UAB	1	0	1.000
UC Davis	9	3	0.750
UCLA	14	37	0.275
UC Riverside	2	0	1.000
UC Santa Barbara	10	2	0.833
UNLV	5	0	1.000
Utah	6	1	0.857
Utah State	6	0	1.000
Virginia	1	0	1.000
Washington	19	30	0.388
Western Michigan	3	1	0.750
Wichita State	3	0	1.000
Willamette	0	2	0.000
Wisconsin	4	0	1.000
<b>Overall Record</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>335-3</b>	<b>(.624)</b>



Rosey Neill